AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims:</u>

- 1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining whether a test compound is capable of affecting cell division, said method comprising:
- a) contacting said test compound with isolated estrogen receptor beta $(ER\beta)$ and mitosis arrest deficient 2 (MAD2), or a binding fragment thereof, under conditions in which $ER\beta$ and MAD2, or a fragment thereof, have formed, or are able to form, a complex; and
- b) determining an effect on whether said test compound affects said ERβ/MAD2 complex or complex formation in the presence of said test compound, as an indication that said test compound is capable of affecting cell division.
- 2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said MAD2 is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3.
 - 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining is done in vitro.
 - 4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining is done in vivo.
- 5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining is done using a yeast two-hybrid system.

- 6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said ERβ additionally comprises glutathione-S-transferase (GST) and said complex or complex formation is determined using a GST-fusion protein interaction assay.
- 7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining is done by fluorescence spectroscopy.
- 8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining is done by biomolecular interaction analysis.

9-12 (Cancelled)

- 13. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining step (b) identifies a test compound that promotes ERβ/MAD2 complex or complex formation, wherein said promotion results in a decrease in cell division.
- 14. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining step (b) identifies a test compound that interferes with or blocks ERβ/MAD2 complex or complex formation, wherein said interference or blockage results in an increase in cell division.